

## Etzig, Trista

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Public Comments on Specialty Crop Block Grant Program; Notice of Request for Approval of a New Information Collection:=====

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General Comment:1) Block grants should be eligible to all specialty crops as defined in the law.

Priority should not be given to one sector of specialty crops, e.g, "fresh", over another. The largest blackberry industry in the USA is in Oregon and the vast majority of the crop goes to the processed market. Processed specialty crops are equally important and need to be treated equally.

2) AMS should allow states flexibility and discretion in developing granting processes and choosing projects that will enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. AMS should not need to approve each project prior to approval of state plans. The very nature of ? block? grants to the states should preclude AMS evaluation of each specific project.

Thank you.